

"Enough is Enough!"

Veolia/BPS Escalate Union-Busting War on USW 8751 The Time for Action is NOW!

It is now 16 months since hated, global union-buster Veolia and its cohorts in BPS (with Veolia boss "Tiny" Stekete as Transportation Director) have waged an unrelenting war on the hard-working women and men of Local 8751. The attacks on the Union and our members escalate daily! The 4 illegally fired leaders remain out. Brother Kirschbaum is still facing bogus frame-up charges. Negotiations have been at a standstill for over a month, even after the intervention of City Hall. Negotiations are scheduled for Wed. Oct 15th, 8-11am @ Phillips Old Colony House, 780 Morrissey Blvd. in Dorchester.

Veolia/BPS/City still have major concessions on the table, including significant economic reductions, spy cameras, loss of driver and union rights, and they still fail to offer our members economic justice on par with others in the city. Roman and his "revolving door", anti-union managers continue to totally repudiate our contract, trample the grievance procedure, unilaterally issue policy changes and threats, illegally abuse technology, refuse or obstruct lawful records requests, and dispense "guilty until proven innocent" discipline, suspensions & terminations! New anti-"Labor Relations Specialist", lawyer Wilson Castellanos, is wreaking further havoc, failing to process grievances, issuing fraudulent letters, doing zero to address the 500+ grievance backlog, refusing to supply necessary documents and grievance data bases, and obstructing the most routine functions, like the retirement of one of our founders. His conduct has established his credibility in negative numbers!

Veolia/BPS have created a Routing / Flat Rate fiasco, illegally using GPS/telematics technology, resulting in the daily theft of thousands of hours from our legitimate Flat Rates, overcrowding, insufficient time, too many stops, and systemic lateness to and home from school, with institutionalized band-aid "fixes". Even though we file E-time (6,050 hours in Sept.), we get cheated on paid days off like Monday. It makes a mockery of our hard-fought seniority bid rights. The August Bid was totally tainted, and Veolia refused to answer the Union's Class Action grievance, making the limited "October Bid" a farce. Veolia has done nothing to resolve the 18 Unfair Labor Practice Charges with the NLRB, deferred to grievance procedure in January. New grievances are mounting daily. Veolia/BPS are on a collision course. They bear 100% responsibility for the conflict that appears destined to come.

"Enough is Enough"! Throughout our fighting history we have learned that, in the final analysis, the Union must rely on the power of our wonderful rank-&-file, in Solidarity with the Communities and the Labor and Political movements, to win our justice. Just last week in front of Dorchester Court, hundreds of militant drivers, monitors and supporters dramatically illustrated this truth. Our many past strikes, rallies, marches and picket lines have demonstrated to foe and friend alike that WE ARE DETERMINED AND PREPARED TO WIN! We have not had a strike since 1991. We give fair warning that we will not surrender 40 years of progress and will fight by any means necessary. We call on the parents, students, community, labor movement and City Hall to demand Veolia/BPS Reinstate the 4 elected leaders, Drop the Frame up Charges and give Contract Justice NOW!



TIAA-CREF: DIVESTED FROM VEOLIA

Due to world-wide condemnation of Veolia/Transdev's human rights and labor violations, in Nov. 2013 one of the largest U.S. pension funds expelled Veolia/Transdev securities from its "Social Choice" fund. If you don't want your retirement savings invested in Veolia's blood-money, **Local 8751's 401k Plan**, by unanimous Committee vote 5/22/14, now offers members the **TIAA-CREF "Social Choice" fund**.



VEOLIA **TRANSDEV**

In the News

9/10/14 San Francisco, CA

Bombshell BART report slams hiring of union-busting negotiator Tom Hock [Veolia/Transdev's labor lawyer]

"...First, [two] strikes [in 2013] and the death of two BART workers who were killed on the tracks when BART management ran scab-run trains while the workers were on strike, were devastating to the district and its personnel."

"We just walked out of a war," one anonymous BART employee (or manager) told the report authors. Other anonymous quotes follow a similar theme: "It was like Vietnam... Labor massacre... The bloodiest strike ever... He was our hired gun... They threw bombs...."

www.sfbg.com/politics/2014/09/10/bombshell-bart-report-slams-hiring-union-busting-negotiator-tom-hock

9/29/14 Kuwait excludes Veolia from \$750m contract

"The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC) warmly welcomes the decision by the Kuwait City Municipality exclude the French company Veolia from a huge solid waste management contract, valued at \$750 million, citing the BNC appeal to that affect. Basing its decision on Veolia's complicity in Israeli projects that violate international law, the municipality also decided to exclude Veolia from "all future projects."

"...Following this humiliating defeat, Veolia was compelled to withdraw from ... the "Um Al-Haiman" waste water treatment ... valued at about \$1.5 billion.

"... Veolia had already lost or had to pull out of tenders worth approximately \$24 billion, mainly in the UK, Sweden, Ireland and the U.S..."

mondoweiss.net/2014/09/iceberg-excludes-contract

10/6/14 Santiago, Chile: Veolia /Transdev (Redbus) Fires Union Leaders, Slashes Community Service During Contract Negotiations

"...With various tentacles around the world, Veolia profits from abusing workers' rights. Perhaps they are not experts in transit or sustainable mobility, but in implementing the mandates of the recent austerity craze, squeezing workers and service while siphoning away profits."

<http://ansoncfit.com>

10/6/14 Santiago paralyzed by 'illegal' bus strike

"One million commuters stranded Monday morning as bus drivers protest over working conditions, public transport system already heavily criticized..."

<http://santiagotimes.cl/santiago-paralyzed-illegal-bus-strike/>



Hundreds demand 'Drop the charges' in anti-union frame-up

Special to Workers World
Dorchester, Mass.

It was the second pre-trial hearing for Stevan Kirschbaum, a founder of Steelworkers Union Local 8751 of Boston's school bus drivers and chair of the union's Grievance Committee.

As with the first court hearing in this saga of company repression versus union militancy, his fellow drivers, other unionists and supporters from the community once again packed the courtroom here on Oct. 6. Some 300 turned out to show they completely reject the bonus charges filed against their brother by the multi-billion-dollar transnational Veolia Corp., which holds the contract to run Boston's school buses and has been trying to undermine their union.

Team Solidarity, the voice of the militant umbrella group called United School Bus Workers, which has brought together bus workers from several cities in the greater Boston area, had called for packing the court on this Solidarity Day 6 to demand that the anti-union, frame-up charges against Kirschbaum be dropped.

The call for solidarity was heeded. The overflow crowd, mainly school bus drivers who came originally from Haiti and Cape



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Verde, packed the courtroom, including sitting on the floor, and also held a picketline outside the courthouse in Dorchester, Mass.

Kirschbaum had been hit by Boston police with four bogus felony charges in early July. The charges were issued after a June 30 rally and march in the school bus yards demanding that Kirschbaum, along with three other union leaders — Andre Francois, Garry Murchison and Steve Gillis — be reinstated to their jobs as drivers following their illegal firing by the France-based Veolia conglomerate last November.

Veolia is notorious for union-busting and privatizing tactics, here and worldwide.

Inside the courtroom, the Veolia/Boston police frame-up began to unravel. The court dismissed two of the felonies: breaking and entering and malicious destruction of property. People's lawyers Barry Wilson and John Pavlos provided a militant and defiant defense, pounding away at the lies by the state and Veolia, revealing them to be fabrications and an outrageous frame-up.



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Left to right: Georgia Scott, Monica Moorehead and Lela Roseboro. Team Solidarity leaders Scott and Roseboro and WW managing editor Moorehead spoke at the Oct. 6 Dorchester rally.

It has been 6 months since we have had the USW International's constitutionally mandated monthly membership meeting. An informed membership is a strong membership! We deserve a MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOW!

Not a shred of credible evidence was provided by the prosecution. Veolia supplied fraudulent and falsified documents. Veolia and the state once again tried — but failed — to get a court order barring Kirschbaum from the bus yards. It was an obvious effort to deny the membership their representation rights, since Kirschbaum hears and acts on many grievances by the workers.

Attorneys Wilson and Pavlos argued expertly for the dismissal of all the charges. The judge refused their request, however, and scheduled the trial on the two remaining charges, felony assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and trespassing, for Nov. 24. The demonstrators then marched from the courtroom and held a fiery occupation, picket and rally in front of the court. As the hated union-buster and general manager of Veolia, Alex Roman, and his assistant manager left the court, they got a taste of justified anger as the workers and their supporters booed Roman and chanted "Union!"

The workers vowed to continue the struggle until all the charges are dropped, the four illegally fired union leaders are reinstated, and a just contract is won.

Pack the courtroom Nov. 24! □

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Local 8751 members at send off of Solidarity caravan from Boston to Ferguson, MO, 10/9/14 "Justice for Mike Brown, Now!"

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**Team Solidarity -
the Voice of United
School Bus Workers**
for more information &
to donate a gift to the
4 fired leaders go to:

schoolbus5.org

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tinyurl.com/KYO9HYS

